

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 NIC-01 EB-11

COME-00 STR-08 AID-20 DRC-01 /198 W

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R 232330Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2723

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T MANAGUA 4197

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, NU, UR

SUBJ: USSR REPORTEDLY INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING RELATIONS
WITH NICARAGUA

REF: MANAGUA 4133, CERP 0002

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL, EMBASSY OFFICER OBTAINED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION DIRECT FROM SILVIO ARGUELLO CARDENAL. ARGUELLO'S FIRST CONTACT WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS WAS WHEN HE VISITED THE USSR EMBASSY AT SAN JOSE TO OBTAIN A VISA FOR HIS DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT. IN DISCUSSING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP HE TOLD THESE OFFICIALS OF HIS INTEREST IN COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE. UPON ARRIVAL MOSCOW, A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF CENTRAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS, CALLED AT ARGUELLO'S HOTEL TO OFFER HIS ASSISTANCE. PURSUANT TO ARGUELLO'S EXPRESSED INTEREST IN COMMERCE, THIS OFFICIAL ARRANGED FOR HIM TO MEET WITH AN OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, WHOM ARGUELLO BELIEVES WAS DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA. ALTHOUGH FRIENDLY, THIS MEETING PRODUCED NOTHING SPECIFIC. WHEN ARGUELLO, WHO IS A MAJOR COTTON PRODUCER, PRESSED THE TRADE OFFICIAL ON POSSIBLE SOVIET INTEREST IN PURCHASING NICARAGUAN COTTON, HE REFERRED ARGUELLO TO A SPECIAL SOVIET AGENCY WHICH HANDLES BARTER

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TRADE ARRANGEMENTS. ARGUELLO, WHO WAS SEEKING A CASH SALE, DID

NOT PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER. ACCORDING TO ARGUELLO, THE SOVIET OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE MET DID NOT EXPRESS ANY INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA AND THEIR ONLY MENTION OF ASSISTANCE WAS TO REFER TO THE THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLAR RELIEF CONTRIBUTION OF THE USSR IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE. THE SOVIET OFFICIALS DID INDICATE THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE WILLING TO FINANCE A GET ACQUAINTED VISIT TO THE USSR BY A DOZEN OR SO PROMINENT NICARAGUANS, IF A GROUP WERE TO APPROACH THEIR EMBASSY AT SAN JOSE AND REQUEST SUCH A VISIT.

2. MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WILL BE AIR POUCHED.
SHELTON

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NNN

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